Approved For Release 1999/09/01 : CIA-RDP78-04864A000100100051-3

CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED 25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. [redacted]

INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS CD NO.

COUNTRY Foreign

SUBJECT FOREIGN RADIO REACTIONS TO THE KOREAN SITUATION AND THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION

HOW PUBLISHED Radio Broadcasts

WHERE PUBLISHED

DATE PUBLISHED 26-28 June 1950

LANGUAGE Several

DATE OF INFORMATION 26-28 June 1950

DATE DIST. 30 June 1950

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 00-F-111

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SOURCE FBID (This strictly factual report is based solely on monitored foreign radio broadcasts received in Washington up to 7 a.m., 28 June 1950. It reproduces the third in a series of reports prepared in response to a special request.)

SUMMARY: Moscow has reacted to the President's decision with much greater speed than it did to the North Korean invasion itself. Its first report of the decision appeared in a TASS dispatch, transmitted eight hours after public announcement of the decision. And its first commentary--a PRAVDA article--was broadcast only 13 hours after the announcement. This article represents Moscow's first independent comment on any phase of the Korean situation. It takes the position that the decision is tantamount to an "act of direct aggression"* against North Korea and Communist China. The President's statement and actions, "without (post-war) precedent," are cited as "added proof... that U.S. ruling circles no longer restrict themselves to preparing for aggression." But there is little expression of counter-threat or belligerence in the article. The only ominous statement--"Have they not gone too far, however?"--is followed immediately by the familiar charge that the U.S. is "brutally violating the U.N. Charter." This charge is supported by a narrowly legalistic type of reasoning.

The Soviet-controlled Berlin radio is the only other Communist source from which radio comment on the decision has been received. As is so often the case, it exercises much less restraint. Two and a half hours after the announcement a Berlin commentator hurls out such phrases as "U.S. war criminals," "criminal and provocative action," "peace is threatened," "immediate danger of war for Europe," and calls for a mass public opinion campaign against 'this new crime against peace." At the same time, however, listeners are advised: "Do not worry. The free nations will not need war."

* The phrase "direct aggression" is repeated four times in the article.

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A considerable number of brief and generally cautious comments on the President's decision have been received from Western-oriented radios. They are about equally divided between expressions of approval and of concern about the "seriousness" of the situation.

"DIRECT AGGRESSION" AND "VIOLATION OF THE U.N. CHARTER": Prior to the President's decision only one Communist radio had attempted to foresee the policy that might be expected of the U.S. in reaction to the Korean situation. Broadcast at approximately the same time the decision was made public, a Radio Warsaw commentary "assumed" that to save Syngman Rhee the U.S. would "make use of its obedient majority in the Security Council... to intervene...." Whether or not this represents the general expectations of the Soviet-Communist elite, it is of some interest in this connection that, aside from charges of "direct aggression," PRAVDA's primary substantive criticism of the President's decision has to do with its alleged violation of the U.N. Charter. But it does not make any reference to an American-dominated Council majority nor, curiously enough, to the previously alleged illegality of any Council decision adopted without Soviet participation. Instead, PRAVDA merely states categorically that the U.N. never "empowered the U.S. Government to undertake against Korea and China those measures which Truman announced yesterday." Consequently, the U.S., "acting as though the U.N. did not exist,... apparently intended to place (this act of direct aggression) before the U.N. (as) a fait accompli."

PRAVDA's charges that Truman's decision represents "direct aggression" and that it shows "in all clarity that the imperialist warmongers are determined to achieve their ends and not stop half way," are essentially part of a long-familiar Soviet propaganda pattern. The only new element is the use of the qualifying word, "direct." Although Moscow has repeatedly accused the U.S. of "aggression" and "aggressive" policies, it has rarely, if ever, accused the U.S. of "direct aggression." Otherwise, however, PRAVDA's charges are no stronger than the usual charges made in many other contexts. But PRAVDA's relative restraint is more than compensated for by two Radio Berlin commentaries on the President's decision. Utilizing the highly-charged phrases mentioned in the "summary" section above, they appear intent upon arousing their listeners to a fever pitch of fear and hatred of the U.S. "criminals" who are bombing Korean women and children and who "even now" may be shelling villages and towns on the Korean coast. "Today it is the brave, courageous Korean people. Tomorrow it will be we who are to be hit. Declare your passionate sympathy with... the Korean people. ... Down with the U.S. imperialists," says one commentator. "Why should there be another holocaust?" asks the other. It is also claimed that "the American war ordered against the Korean people by the President" had been "long prepared and dastardly calculated."

Monitored Pyongyang broadcasts have not yet mentioned the President's decision. But a "central press review," broadcast seven hours after the decision was announced, refers to the alleged "mobilization" on 27 June of American warplanes which shot down a North Korean fighter near Seoul. "The Korean people are becoming more indignant at such interference," says Pyongyang. "Aggressive American imperialists, withdraw from our country immediately! Take your bloody hands off our Fatherland immediately!"

Except for a Radio Berlin appeal to sign the Stockholm Appeal to ban atomic weapons, none of the above broadcasts so much as mentions the atom bomb.

WESTERN-ORIENTED COMMENT: Among the favorable reactions to the President's decision, there are positive references to America's regained prestige and to the possibility that action might succeed where words have failed." Most of the allusions to the resulting "seriousness" of the situation do not elaborate; nor do most of them evince any impression of panic. A Bogota newspaper, however, is said to have issued a special edition with the banner headline, "World War--The Third World War Has Broken Out in Asia." A Swiss commentator feels that "the Korean war might now well become a second Spanish war." And a Madrid commentator regards the President's step as one that "might bring about a conflagration."

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